

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-30

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O P 142055Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8103

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3557

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS PFOR, OAS, CU

SUBJECT: CUBAN SANCTIONS

REF: SAN JOSE 2783 AND LANE-MCNEIL TELCON 9/14/74

1. SAN JOSE IEYH CARRIED THIS MORNING, SEPTEMBER 14, UPI REPORTS DATELINED WASHINGTON TO EFFECT THAT COSTA RICA DISAGREED LAST JULY WITH GOV PROPOSAL TO GO AHEAD WITH UNILATERAL RECOGNITION OF CUBA, AND TWO COUNTRIES SUBSEQUENTLY ALSO DISAGREED ON THE SPECIFICS OF GOCR PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION OF CUBAN SANCTIONS IN OAS. REPOROTS QUOTE QUITE EXACTLY FROM SWCIO'S LETTER TO SCHACHT OF JULY 18 (TEXT REPORTED IN REFTEL TO DEPARTMENT ONLY).

2. FONMIN FACIO CALLED ME LATER THIS MORNING TO SAY THAT HE HAD RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM SCHACHT WHO WAS FURIOUS ABOUT THIS LEAK. MOREOVER, SCHACHT REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE UPI REPORT ITSELF IS VERY EMBARRASSING TO HIM AND GOV POLITICALLY, AND THAT HE WILL RELEASE A STATEMENT LATE TODAY DENYING IT. FACIO WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS MEANS SCHACHT WILL DENY THE EXISTENCE OF THE LETTER (I COMMENTED THAT THIS COULD BE A DANGEROUS THING FOR HIM TO DO) OR SIMPLY THE INTERPRETATION PLACED UPON IT. SCHACHT ASKED FOR FACIO'S SUPPORT.

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3. FONMIN SAID THAT GOCR HAS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO SUPPORT GOV'S

STATEMENT IN THIS REGARD, MOST PARTICULARLY TO DENY THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ON SUBJECT OF CUBAN SANCTIONS. FACIO ASKED THAT USG NOT DO OR SAY ANYTHING WHICH WOULD UNDERCUT THIS PUBLIC POSITION. I RESPONDED THAT I WOULD OF COURSE SAY NOTHING HERE AND THAT I WOULD COMMUNICATE HIS REQUEST TO WASHINGTON. I ALSO OBSERVED THAT I SAW NO REASON WHY THE USG SHOULD HAVE TO MAKE ANY COMMENT AT ALL ON THIS MATTER OF A PRIVATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TWO OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

4. FACIO DIDNOT SPECIFICALLY POINT A FINGER AT US OR ANYONE ELSE AS POSSIBLE SOURCE OF LEAK. HE DID OBSERVE, HOWEVER, THAT HIS LETTER TO SCHACHT WAS GIVEN TO VERY FEW OTHERS, NAMELY TO USG AND HIS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. HE QUICKLY ADDED THAT THE LEAK COULD HAVE BEEN IN HIS OWN MINISTRY, SINCE HIS "SECURITY ISN'T VERY GOOD." I THINK IT LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT FACIO SUSPECTS THAT SOMEBODY IN USG LEAKED THIS STORY, AND EVEN MORE LIKELY THAT SCHACHT PRESSED THAT VIEW ON HIM. IN ANY CASE, PROBABLE THAT FACIO DID IN FACT GIVE THE LETTER TO AT LEAST A FEW OTHER GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING GUATEMALA, PANAMA AND BRAZIL IN ADDITION, OF COURSE, TO COLOMBIA. (HE HIMSELF TOLD ME HE HAD GIVEN IT TO THE BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR SHORTLY AFTER THE EVENT, AND I WILL REMIND HIM OF THAT FACT IF I HAVE A CHANCE).

5. I WOULD WELCOME ANY COMMENTS THE DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ON THE SUBJECT OF THIS LEAK, ALTHOUGH FACIO LEAVES EARLY SUNDAY MORNING FOR WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK. I MAY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE THIS SUBJECT IN A LOWKEY WAY WITH HIM PERSONALLY AT THE AIRPORT PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE. LANE

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